

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 230907

67

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 MC-02 AID-20 IGA-02 NIC-01

EUR-25 EB-11 /186 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:PP

APPROVED BY EA/P:WMAGRUDER

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R 232209Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

RUMMRGA

CINCPAC HONO

COGARD (POLAD)

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 230907

E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, DC, US

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 23 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

INA

1. FIELD REPORTS SAY REBEL BARRAGE DRIVES FANK
FROM ROUTE 4 TOWN 36 MILES FROM PP; GKR FORCE BEGINS
DRIVE TO RETAKE IT (UPI CHITRIB, NYDN, PHINQ, WP;
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PAGE 02 STATE 230907

AP, SUN). AFP FROM PP REPORTS LON NOL DECIDES TO
MOVE FROM TWICE-BOMBED PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. GRUNK
FONMIN IN PEKING SAYS FAR AS HE KNOWS, CAMBODIAN
PROBLEM NOT DISCUSSED DURING HAK MEETINGS WITH PRC

OFFICIALS (UPI, WP).

2. RLG SPOKESMAN SAYS SOUVANNA PHOUMA INFERRED THAT PL READY TO START SESSIONS OF JOINT COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT LAOS PEACE AGREEMENT ON NOVEMBER 23, ENDING 8-MONTH DELAY (UPI NYDN, WP).

3. GVN AND VC RESUME 8-MONTH-OLD NEGOTIATIONS AT PARIS, REPORT NO PROGRESS IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON ELECTIONS, WILL MEET AGAIN (UPI NYT, NYDN, WP, PHINQ). MEETING ERUPTS IN ARGUMENT OVER WHO RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTINUATION OF FIGHTING IN SVN (NYT).

4. GVN SHAKES UP OFFICER CORPS FOR SECOND TIME

SINCE LATE OCTOBER IN ANTICIPATION OF MAJOR COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE, REPLACES 8 KEY OFFICERS INCLUDING QUANG DUC PROVINCE CHIEF. INFORMED SOURCES EXPECT MORE CHANGES, SAY THIEU INTENDS WEED OUT CORRUPTION AND DEADWOOD WHILE STRENGTHENING LOCAL COMMANDS (UPI WP, PHINQ, NYDN, CHITRIB). ARVN REPORTS MILITIAMEN BATTLE COMMUNISTS FOR DELTA RICE HARVEST IN SECOND DAY OF HEAVY FIGHTING (UPI, NYT).

5. LIPPMAN (WP) DESCRIBES BLEAK VILLAGE 10 MILES FROM DA NANG THAT IS WITHOUT SCHOOL, PAGODA OR MARKET. WAS FORMERLY LOCATED IN NEARBY PROSPEROUS AREA, BUT REGION IS ONE OF LONG-STANDING COMMUNIST INFLUENCE SO FOUR YEARS AGO US ARMY BURNED VILLAGE DOWN AND GVN FORCED INHABITANTS TO MOVE NEAR ROAD WHERE THEY CAN BE CONTROLLED. LAND IS POOR AND PEOPLE WANT TO RETURN TO OLD LOCATION, BUT GVN WON'T ALLOW IT UNTIL OFT-REPEATED "NEAR FUTURE" THAT NEVER COMES. DISTRICT CHIEF SAYS VILLAGERS ALL HAVE RELATIVES IN VC SO GVN DOESN'T TRUST THEM. LIPPMAN FINDS NO SIGNS THAT DESTRUCTION OF ORIGINAL VILLAGE ACHIEVED UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 230907

ANYTHING BEYOND EMBITTERMENT OF PEOPLE.

CHINA

6. JOC'S STRAUSS, IN CANTON, REPORTS FALL TRADE FAIR SAW DECREASE IN MANY PRICES. GENERAL THEME WAS TO SELL CHINESE MERCHANDISE AT TRUE WORLD PRICE LEVELS, WITH CHINESE PLANNERS UNPEGGING THEIR PRICES TO BE MORE IN LINE WITH COMPETITION. SAYS WHAT CAUSED SPRING FAIR PRICES TO BE SO OUT OF LINE "MAY NEVER BE KNOWN, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN STRAIGHTENED OUT" IN ALL BUT FEW CASES. RESULT OF RETURN TO PROCEDURE OF BARGAINING WAS BUYING ON LEVEL NOT SEEN BEFORE, AND OBSERVERS ESTIMATE THAT FALL FAIR

WAS BIGGEST IN CHINA'S HISTORY -- PROBABLY EXCEEDING ITS PREDECESSOR IN VOLUME BY 25-30 PERCENT. WHILE SPRING PRICE INCREASES OBVIOUSLY SCARED SOME BUYERS AWAY, SMALL US SPRING CONTINGENT (150) RECORDED BIGGEST FALL INCREASE TO SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 200 PERSONS. PEKING'S APPOINTMENT OF NEW FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER DURING COURSE OF FAIR CAUSED HARDLY RIPPLE IN CANTON, STRAUSS SAYS, BECAUSE FORMER CHIEF, PAI HSIANG-KUO, "WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY THE FIGUREHEAD." NEW MAN, LEE CHIANG, IS EXPERIENCED BUREAUCRAT. CANTON DIPLOMATS SAY SWITCH WAS TO PUT PAI BACK IN ARMY WHERE HE IS NEEDED AND WAS NOT SLAP AT HIM FOR PAST FAILURES, AS SUGGESTED BY SOME JOURNALISTS.

JAPAN

7. FOLLOWING CABINET MEETING THURSDAY, TANAKA ANNOUNCED "DRAMATIC SWITCH" IN ME POLICY - NEUTRAL TO PRO-ARAB. PM SAID GOJ WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL IF LATTER DOESN'T WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY; "POSSIBLE SEVERANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AT PRESENT TIME, HOWEVER." NIKAIDO SAID GOJ HOPES ME PEACE WILL COME "THROUGH PROMPT AND COMPLETE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN RESOLUTION 242," AND CONTINUES EFFORTS IN THAT CAUSE (CHITRIB, SUN, JOC, WP, PHINQ). ALTHOUGH TEN ARAB AMBASSADORS BRIEFED BY OHIRA AGREED UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 230907

NOT TO DISCUSS SITUATION (WP), REPORTS FROM BEIRUT CONDEMN GOJ STAND ON GUARANTEES AND SAY POLICY IS WEAKER THAN EEC ME STANCE (JOC).

8. PEPPER (SUN) REPORTS BOTH US AND ISRAEL CRITICIZED GOJ FOR "YIELDING TO BLACKMAIL." ISRAEL OFFICIALS SAID BENDING TO "ARAB BLACKMAIL" IS HARDLY FITTING OF BIG ECONOMIC POWERS (CHITRIB) AND GIVES POSSIBLE AID TO ARAB EXTREMISTS (NYT). SUN QUOTES US SPOKESMAN AS SAYING IT WILL "MAKE MORE DIFFICULT" ME PEACE SETTLEMENT. WP REPORTS EBAN, FRESH FROM CROSS-COUNTRY TOUR OF US, SAYING GOJ POLICY SHIFT WAS CAUSING "VERY GREAT PUBLIC DISQUIET AMONG THOSE WHO TRADE WITH JAPAN IN THIS COUNTRY." GOJ SHIFT TOOK PLACE ONLY HOURS AFTER HAK OFFERED HOPE OF ALLEVIATING PETROLEUM CRISIS IN JAPAN AND URGED AGAINST JUST SUCH "ISOLATED ACTIONS" BY GOJ. HOWEVER, OHIRA TOLD PRESS THAT HE DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD STRAIN US-JAPAN RELATIONS IRREPARABLY. OBERDORFER (WP) REPORTS CONSIDERABLE DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE GOJ OVER EXTENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH ARAB DEMANDS. FOUR MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTIES ATTACKED GOVT. POSITION FROM DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS. OBERDORFER ALSO REPORTS

THAT DCM SHOESMITH WAS CALLED TO GAIMUSHO TO HEAR
GOJ POSITION ABOUT 5 HOURS AFTER HAK PRESS CONFERENCE
AND 3 HOURS BEFORE TOKYO ANNOUNCEMENT. CITES EMBASSY
SPOKESMAN AS EXPRESSING "REGRET" THAT JAPAN FOUND
IT NECESSARY TO MAKE STATEMENT, AND ASSERTED MOVE
WILL "MAKE MORE DIFFICULT" A ME SETTLEMENT BASED
ON UN RES. 242, WHICH JAPAN HAS CONSTANTLY BACKED.

9. JOC'S CULLISON SAYS PORT AND HARBOR UNION HAS
CALLED FOR SPORADIC DAY-LONG WALKOUTS TO APPLY PRESSURE
ON MANAGEMENT AND SHOW UNITY AFTER LAST ILL-FATED
STRIKE. NEW STRIKES WILL AFFECT SEVEN MAJOR
PORTS ONLY SLIGHTLY CAUSING ONLY ONE DAY DELAY IN

LOADING, BUT YOKOHAMA PORT WORKER'S UNION SAID,
"THESE STRIKES MAY PROVE . . . IMPORTANT IN APPLYING
PRESSURE ON THEM FOR LARGER YEAR-END BONUSES. .
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 230907

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KOREA

10. KAL HAS REQUESTED CUT OF 35 PERCENT IN DOMESTIC
FLIGHTS TO CONSERVE FUEL, BRINGING FLIGHTS TO 32 DAILY
(UPI, NYDN).

AUSTRALIA

11. WHITLAM SAYS DEP PM BARNARD WILL RAISE ISSUE
OF US ALERTING AUSTRALIAN-BASED FORCES WITHOUT CONSULTING
GOA, IN JANUARY VISIT TO US. HE WILL BE IN US TO
RENEGOTIATE TERMS OF US BASES IN AUSTRALIA (AP, NYDN).

12. SYDNEY DOCKERS TIE UP US FLOATING UNIVERSITY
DUE TO UNION ACCUSATIONS THAT SHIP'S CREW IS UNDERPAID
BY ITWF STANDARDS (AP).

13. NYT REPORTS SEN. MURPHY, ATTORNEY-GENERAL, INTRO-
DUCED LEGISLATION BACKING UP AUSTRALIA'S ADHERENCE
TO UN DECLARATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. IF PASSED,
IT WOULD BENEFIT BOTH WOMEN AND ABORIGINES NOW RECEIVING
LESS PAY FOR JOBS EQUAL TO THOSE HELD BY WHITE MEN
AND ALSO OPEN SEGREGATED INSTITUTIONS. NEW SOUTH
WALES STATE CONCILIATION COMMISSIONER FOLLOWED INTRODUCTION
OF LEGISLATION WITH NEW WAGE REGULATION EQUALIZING
OFFICE WORKERS PAY (NYT).

PHILIPPINES

14. UNITED METHODIST MISSIONS BOARD IN NEW YORK
CLAIMS DR. PRUDENTE, PRES OF PHILIPPINES COLLEGE

OF COMMERCE, "A SYMBOL AND LEADER OF DEMOCRATIC
OPPOSITION TO MARCOS," WAS ARRESTED OCT. 25 IN CENTRAL
LUZON. EFFORTS TO LOCATE HIM OR EVEN CONFIRM HIS
ARREST HAVE BEEN FUTILE. BOTH THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY
AND PHILIPPINE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES REFUSE TO CONFIRM
PRUDENTE'S ARREST. PRUDENTE'S WIFE HAS ASKED US
STATE DEPT. TO INVESTIGATE RATHER THAN PHILIPPINE
EMBASSY FOR FEAR OF HARASSMENT (WP'S MAJORIE HYER).
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 230907

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

15. CHITRIB EDITORIALIZES ON RECENT HEAVY EMIGRATION

FROM PRC INTO HK; RECALLS THAT AFTER 1962 CROP FAILURE,
UK AUTHORITIES PERSUADED PEKING TO LIMIT LEGAL EMIGRATION
TO 50 CHINESE PER DAY. SUGGESTS NEW INFLUX MAY
BE RELATED TO PRC WANTING TO RID ITSELF OF DISSIDENTS,
OR TO BACKING HK COMMUNIST CLAMORS FOR CHINESE REPRESENTATION
IN COLONY'S ADMIN BY SENDING THEM MASSIVE NUMBERS
TO SUPPORT THEIR DEMANDS. COMMENTS THAT WHATEVER
REASON, HK IS SUFFERING SEVERE CASE OF "HUMAN FLU."

16. FROM HK, CHITRIB'S JOHN GOLD SEES CHINESE COMMUNIST
BUSINESS THERE GROWING. SAYS THIS YEAR BANK OF
CHINA HAS FUNNELLED UNPRECEDENTED AMOUNT OF FOREIGN
CURRENCY TO PEKING. CITES HK GOVT. HOME AFFAIRS
SECRETARY AS ESTIMATING COLONY IS WORTH ABOUT 975
MILLION DOLS PER YEAR TO CHINA, ROUGHLY HALF OF
CHINA'S TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY EARNINGS. HK COMMUNISTS
RUN HOTELS, OWN AND RENT APARTMENT BUILDINGS, AND
OPERATE ABOUT 70 MAJOR DEPARTMENT STORES - SO-CALLED
"MAO SHOPS" - PLUS LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF SMALL SHOPS,
ABOUT HALF DOZEN NEWSPAPERS, AROUND 10 THEATERS,
FOUR FILM COMPANIES, AT LEAST SIX BIG RESTAURANTS,
TRAVEL AGENCY, TWO ADVERTISING AGENCIES, SEVERAL
COLD-STORAGE FIRMS AND TWO INSURANCE COMPANIES.
DURING SLUMP THAT FOLLOWED SPRING HK STOCK MARKET
CRASH, IT WAS LARGELY COMMUNIST ADVERTISING THAT
KEPT PROFITS OF COLONY'S LEADING COMMERCIAL TV STATION
BUOYANT. OBSERVES HK GOVT., RENOWN FOR LAISSEZ
FAIRE APPROACH TO BUSINESS, ADOPTING SAME FREE AND
EASY ATTITUDE TO COMMIES; NOTES CHINESE GOVT. BUREAUCRACY
TAKING SAME ATTITUDE TOWARD THEIR PARTY BROTHERS
WHO GROW RICH ON SPOILS OF HK CAPITALISM.

17. JOE ALSOP (WP, SUN) VIEWS DAVID LEWIS' BOOK,
"WE, THE NAVIGATORS," AS SETTLING FOR HISTORIANS
DEEP MYSTERY OF HOW POLYNESIANS FIRST REACHED THEIR
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 230907

DISTANT PACIFIC ISLANDS. SAYS ANOTHER PROBLEM THAT WILL GREATLY TROUBLE FUTURE HISTORIANS CONCERNS WASHINGTON'S PRE-OCCUPATION WITH WATERGATE TO EXCLUSION OF OTHER DANGERS. CONCLUDES IT IS PROBLEM THAT MAY SEEM MORE IMPORTANT, ONE DAY, THAN POLYNESIAN MYSTERY.

18. FROM BAIYER RIVER, PNG, WSJ'S HARTLEY REPORTS EXTENSIVELY ON STATE OF PREPARATIONS OF AUSSIE TURNOVER OF PNG INTERNAL GOVT. TO LOCAL PEOPLE BY DEC. 1; FULL INDEPENDENCE TO FOLLOW, PROBABLY LATE 1974. FINDS MANY LOCAL PEOPLE RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT IDEA OF INDEPENDENCE, FEARING BREAKDOWN OF LAW AND ORDER

AND EXODUS OF EXPATS WITH THEIR SKILLS. IN SEPARATE ARTICLE, WSJ REPORT FROM PORT MORESBY PROVIDES EXAMPLES OF "PIDGIN ENGLISH" OR "NEO-MELANESIAN" USED BY NATIVES TO COMMUNICATE WITH STRANGERS.

19. NYT'S SHIPLER IN BANGKOK INTERVIEWS BANGKOK POST COLUMNIST MRS. SUMALEE VIRAVAIIDYA, ONLY WOMAN MEMBER OF 18-MEMBER COMMITTEE TO DRAFT NEW THAI CONSTITUTION. SAYS SHE WANTS RIGHTS BUT NOT "LIBERATION." KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE230907
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/P:STAFF:PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731167/abqcejym.tel
Line Count: 298
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <21-Aug-2001 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NOVEMBER 23 EA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, VS, US, XC
To: SAIGON INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG
HONG KONG
NHA TRANG
JEC PARIS

RUMMRGA
CINCPAC HONO
COGARD (POLAD)
XMT SUVA

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005